AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising a sense strand and a separate antisense strand~~, wherein:

[[a.]] (a) the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

[[b.]](b) each strand of said nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;

[[c.]](c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand ~~of said nucleic acid molecule~~ is complementary to a human platelet-derived endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF1) RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:225;

[[d.]](d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand ~~of said nucleic acid molecule~~ is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of said human ECGF1 RNA sequence ~~comprising SEQ ID NO:225~~;

[[e.]](e) about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and

[[f.]](f) one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine

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nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.

39-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.

52. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

53. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

54. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~47~~ 36, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of said sense strand.

55. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~36~~ 54, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

56. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine

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nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

57. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

58. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

59. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.

60-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein the 5'-end of said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.

69. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

70. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

71. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.

72. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically

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modified to comprise one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, inverted deoxyabasic moieties, or a combination thereof.

73-74. (Canceled)

75. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.

76. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more 2'-O-methoxyethyl (MOE) nucleotides in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.

77. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more locked nucleic acid (LNA) nucleotides in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.

78. (New) A method of modulating the expression of human platelet-derived endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF1) gene in a cell comprising administering the chemically modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 to the cell under conditions suitable for modulating the expression of ECGF1 gene in the cell.

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